

# City Newsletter

SUMMER  
2021

## A Message from the Mayor

I would like to take a few minute and tell you a few things about me that you may or may not already know. Waterville is my home, it is where I raise my children, as you may as well. I believe that you and I, along with our neighbors, share many commonalities as well as some differences. That diversity is what makes Waterville a stronger and more robust community.



A community filled with vibrance, culture, and a rich history of hard-working immigrants from France to Poland, Italy to Greece, Lebanon to Israel and many countries in between. You even got me, the Portuguese guy. Sorry for your luck.

I am the son of Portuguese immigrants, my mother remarried and along with my siblings we grew up poor in a biracial household. It was not easy, to say we were poor is an understatement. Did you ever play with toothpicks and peas to make a matchbox car? I did. My parents thought they had a genius on their hands, they were mistaken, I was just trying not to eat the peas.

What all these cultures have in common are people who care, people who are of service to each other all bringing something unique to the table. The desire to do more is what makes us great.

July 4th is around the corner, I hope that you find time to get out and enjoy your family and friends. This is where I ask you to be safe and not drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol. If you play silly games, you win silly prizes. No one wants a vacation behind bars!

And remember, it is hot, don't forget to check in on your neighbors.

*If you want to go fast, go alone.  
If you want to go far, go together.  
-African Proverb*

HOLIDAY CLOSURES:

7/5/21  
IN HONOR OF JULY 4TH

August is

## National Dog Month

National Dog Month celebrates our loveable canine pals smack in the middle of the dog days of summer. Dogs are the #1 most commonly owned pets on the planet, and with good reason. Did you know that scientific studies prove our pawsome companions make us happier, less stressed, and more optimistic? The list of benefits to spending time with a dog goes on and on, but it all proves one thing, that a month-long celebration of our furry best friends has been a long time coming.

Whether your dog burrows under the blankets with you at night, plays in the sprinkler, or alerts you to a health need, we know they are constantly improving our lives and making them more fun. Not only that, but the companionship and affection we share with them make their lives better, too. Dog lovers know a life without dogs is a life missing something special, and that's a fact worth celebrating.



Along with the fun comes responsibility. Below are some reasons why it is important to pick up after your dog:

- ⇒ It's common courtesy
- ⇒ Dog poop is not a fertilizer
- ⇒ Disease-causing bacteria and parasites
- ⇒ It will not wash away on it's own

Refer to the back page regarding the Animal Control Ordinance.



For a list of upcoming, local events, check out the event schedule on our web site's home page at [www.waterville-me.gov](http://www.waterville-me.gov).

# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT



We recommend you watch the video below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ntrGrfvvkII>

## REMINDER

Information security is **not** optional.

The City is thankful that we have not had to contend with a serious network breach or ransomware attack.

Other high-profile attacks have occurred to municipalities and businesses around the country in the past years. The most recent and famous would be the Colonial Pipeline ransomware attack.

This link from ICMA pertains explicitly to local government avoiding ransomware:

<https://icma.org/blog-posts/practical-measures-local-government-avoid-ransomware>

The important highlight to take away from that link is:

**“According to CSO Magazine, 94% of malware is delivered by email and phishing attacks account for more than 80% of reported cybersecurity incidents”** which means that training and awareness is more important than most people understand.



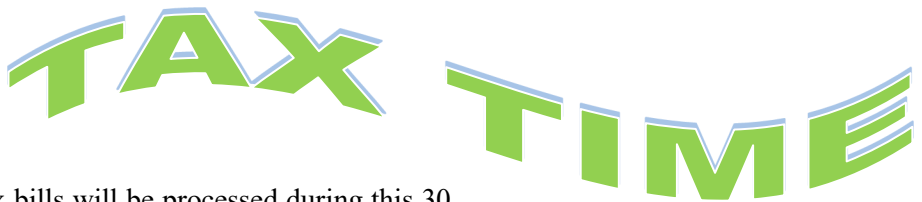
We have a few pieces of advice that everyone should follow to keep our network secure and protect each other's data:

- ◆ DON'T click on links from an unknown or untrusted source. Cyber attackers often use them to trick you into visiting malicious sites and downloading malware that can be used to steal data and damage networks.
- ◆ DON'T be tricked into giving away confidential information. It's easy for an unauthorized person to call and pretend to be an employee or business partner. DON'T respond to phone calls or emails requesting sensitive data without verifying the identity of the person.
- ◆ DON'T post any private or sensitive information, such as credit card numbers, passwords or other private information, on public sites, including social media sites, and DON'T send it through email unless authorized to do so.
- ◆ DO use privacy settings on social media sites to restrict access to your personal information.
- ◆ DO pay attention to phishing traps in email and watch for telltale signs of a scam.
- ◆ DON'T open mail or attachments from an untrusted source.

Please contact the IT Office at

[it@waterville-me.gov](mailto:it@waterville-me.gov) with all inquiries

# FINANCE DEPARTMENT



The Tax Office is busy getting ready for the next cycle of taxation. The 4th quarter of taxes was due June 11, 2021 so those who have not paid their real estate taxes by June 30, 2021 will be receiving a 30-day notice that a Tax Lien will be placed on the property if not paid by August 12, 2021.

We will be doing research on each of the nearly 600 parcels of property with unpaid taxes to see if the property has been sold. If a property is sold, the 30 day tax lien notice will go out to both the seller and the buyer. The period between the 30 day notice and the last day of the 30 days, each parcel needs to be reviewed to see if there is a mortgage, other liens, or any other person who has an interest in the property. If taxes remain unpaid a lien is placed at the end of the 30 days, the owner and any interested parties receive a copy of the lien.

Tax bills will be processed during this 30 day time-frame as well.

Assessing commits the taxes to our office around August 15th of each year. After processing reports to prove with the Assessing dollars (2021 amount was \$18,686,988.80) we print and mail all of the tax bills.

In 2021 tax year bills processed:

- 5139 real estate
- 775 personal property

Finance office staff understand that the past 14 months have been a very challenging

time and would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to the citizens of Waterville for their patience.

Maine Revised Statutes Annotated (M.R.S.A.) Title 36 §942

<https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/36/title36sec942.html>

Please contact the Finance office  
at 207-680-4241 or  
[lcote@waterville-me.gov](mailto:lcote@waterville-me.gov)  
with all inquiries

# LIBRARY NEWS

The **2021 Summer Reading Program** launched on June 14<sup>th</sup>! Our theme this year is “**Tales and Tails**” and is open to **ALL AGES!** Registration began on Tuesday, June 1<sup>st</sup> with everything accessible online.

Just create an account on Beanstack ([watervillelibrary.beanstack.org](http://watervillelibrary.beanstack.org)) and log the number of minutes spent reading. There will be three levels of prizes and five separate grand prize drawings (for example: a \$100 gift card to Bull Moose!), one for each age category: listeners, beginning readers, independent readers, teens, and adults!



**Waterville Public Library** and **Ticonic Studios** are partnering this summer with **Art in the Park** - Thursdays, June 17<sup>th</sup> – August 19<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-5 pm, located at the Waterville Farmer’s Market at Head of Falls.

Each week, Serena Sanborn and guest artists will instruct the audience in different art techniques.

There will also be a fun story from our children’s librarian Liz Davis. Each week there will be a drawing for one lucky listener to win a copy of the book! All programs will be held with social distancing and health protocols in place.

There are two **open air concerts** that will be held for the children at the Farmer’s Market/Head of Falls:

- ⇒ Thursday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 @ 3 pm, **Jennifer Armstrong** (rain date 7/29/21)
- ⇒ Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 @ 3 pm, **Matt Loosigian** (rain date 8/12/21)



The Waterville Public Library in partnership with Waterville Parks & Rec, Waterville Creates, and an anonymous donor, is eagerly anticipating the opening the North Street Connector Story-Walk® in the summer of 2021.

Please contact the Library

at 207-872-5433 or

[librarian@watervillelibrary.org](mailto:librarian@watervillelibrary.org)

with all inquiries

The Library building remains closed to the public due to building projects. Library To Go continues to be available Monday, 1p-5p; Tuesday, 1p-6p; Wednesday-Friday, 1p-5p; Saturday, 10a-12p. For more information about Library To Go, please visit [www.watervillelibrary.org/news/article.php?id=760](http://www.watervillelibrary.org/news/article.php?id=760)

**Curious Kids Hour:** GSK Science in the Summer: “Be an Engineer!” streaming via Zoom from 9-10 am Wednesday July 21<sup>st</sup>, July 28<sup>th</sup>, August 4<sup>th</sup>, and August 11<sup>th</sup> presented by the Maine Children’s Discovery Museum. There will be experiment kits available for pick up through Library To Go beginning July 12. Families choosing to participate need to register online to receive the Zoom link.



## LIBRARY TO GO

Our weekly virtual programming and kits will continue through the summer through **Library to Go** and our Facebook page. This includes the following:

### Kids

- **Facebook & Library to Go-** Crafternoon, Tuesdays @ 3p
- **Facebook-** Book Bites! Thursdays @ 7p
- **Facebook-** Rhymetime, Fridays @ 10:30a

### Teens and Adults

- **Library to Go-** Grab & Go Activity Kits (first and third Mondays)
- **Library to Go-** Cozy Tea Kits

The Waterville Public Library is a partner participant in the Waterville Sunflower Project coordinated by Waterville Creates. The library will soon feature a sunflower garden house and a sunflower selfie station on the Elm Street lawn throughout the summer. For more information: [www.watervillecreates.org/shows/the-waterville-sunflower-project/](http://www.watervillecreates.org/shows/the-waterville-sunflower-project/)

## NEWS FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT



The Waterville Police Department offers a program to the public called Operation H.O.P.E. (Heroin Opiate Prevention Effort), which began in January 2017 as a response to the opiate abuse epidemic in Maine and the importance of addressing this epidemic at the local level.

The primary focus of Operation H.O.P.E. is treatment for those suffering with substance abuse disorder. Any person may come to the police department to seek help. They will go through a basic screening process and work with a volunteer for treatment placement. This program relies entirely on scholarships from recovery facilities, donations from the public, and fundraising events.

The backbone of the program are the H.O.P.E. Angels, volunteers who are trained in both the dynamics of substance abuse disorder and the specifics of the H.O.P.E. program. The H.O.P.E. Angels work to place people in either outpatient treatment programs or residential facilities,

regardless of whether or not they have health insurance.

The Operation H.O.P.E. program has exceeded our hopes to help the community and has placed over 170 people since its inception.

This program is a partnership with the Police Assisted Addiction Recovery Initiative (PAARI) for placement into one of the 300 PAARI partnered rehabilitation facilities around the country. Our local partners include our fiscal agent, Kennebec Valley Community Action Program (KVCAP), Discovery House of Central Maine, Maine General Medical Center, and Healthy North-ern Kennebec.

The Waterville Police Department will continue to provide assistance to those suffering from addiction and aggressively enforce the law against those trafficking illegal drugs and will continue to help in the education of others to avoid addiction.

For more information call 207-680-4700 or view the website below  
<http://www.waterville-me.gov/police/operation-hope-angel-application/>





## CITY HALL

One Common Street, Waterville, ME 04901  
207-680-4200 | Fax: 207-680-4249

## CITY HALL HOURS

Monday—Friday | 7:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

CITY MANAGER  
Stephen Daly

MAYOR  
J. Coelho

## CITY COUNCIL

Michael Morris (Ward 1)

Flavia Oliveira (Ward 2)

Thomas Klepach (Ward 3)

Rebecca Green (Ward 4)

Richard Foss (Ward 5)

Claude Francke (Ward 6)

Erik Thomas (Ward 7)

## CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Held the first and third Tuesday of the month

7:00 p.m.

## CITY DIRECTORY

Administration (207) 680-4204

Airport (207) 861-8013

Assessing (207) 680-4221

City Clerk (207) 680-4213

City Planner (207) 860-4230

Code Enforcement (207) 680-4231

Finance (207) 680-4248

Fire Department (207) 680-4735

Health & Welfare (207) 680-4227

Human Resources (207) 680-4215

City Library (207) 872-5433

Parks & Recreation (207) 680-4744

Police Department (207) 680-4700

Project Engineer (207) 860-4232

Public Works (207) 680-4744

## News from HR

### New Hires:

Alexander Audette—Fire Fighter (6/1/21)

Jake Whitley—Patrol Officer (6/7/21)

Barbara Blethen—Welfare Caseworker 1 (6/7/21)

# Welcome!



Please join me in extending warm wishes to:

Mike Roy who retired on June 30, 2021 after serving 16 years as City Manager.

Battalion Chief Rodney Alderman who is scheduled to retire on July 7, 2021 after serving 25 years with the Fire Department.

*The City of Waterville thanks Mike and Rodney for their service to our community.*

For current Job openings please go to our website:

<http://www.waterville-me.gov/humanresources/current-job-openings/>

**Upcoming changes to the Animal Control Ordinance will take effect July 28, 2021.**

- Sec. 2-4. Number of dogs limited.
- Sec. 2-5. Barking or howling dogs.
- Sec. 2-6. Remedy for Dogs found to be Nuisances